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ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL

November 3, 2005

4:00 P.M.

A special meeting of the Council of the City of Roanoke and the Roanoke City School Board was called to order on Thursday, November 3, 2005, at 4:00 p.m., in the Emergency Services Conference Room, Room 159, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, with Mayor C. Nelson Harris and Chair Kathy G. Stockburger presiding.

ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: M. Rupert Cutler, Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., Sherman P. Lea, Brenda L. McDaniel, Brian J. Wishneff, and Mayor C. Nelson Harris-----6.

ABSENT: None-----0.

(Council Member Dowe arrived late.)

ROANOKE CITY SCHOOL TRUSTEES PRESENT: Jason E. Bingham, David B. Carson, William H. Lindsey, Alvin L. Nash, Courtney A. Penn, David B. Trinkle, and Chair Kathy G. Stockburger-----7.

ABSENT: None-----0.

The Mayor and Chair declared the existence of a quorum of their respective bodies.

The invocation was delivered by Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Representing the City of Roanoke: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

Representing the Roanoke City Public Schools: Marvin T. Thompson, Superintendent; Cindy H. Lee, Clerk; and Timothy R. Spencer, Legal Counsel.

The Mayor read the following communication calling the special meeting:

"November 2, 2005

The Honorable Vice-Mayor and Members
of the Roanoke City Council
Roanoke, Virginia

Dear Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick and Members of Council:

Pursuant to Section 10, Meetings of Council Generally, of the Charter of the City of Roanoke, this is to advise you that I am calling a special meeting of the Council on Thursday, November 3, 2005, at 4:00 p.m., in Room 159, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W. The purpose of the special meeting will be to meet with the Roanoke City School Board to discuss issues in connection with the consultant's report regarding Victory Stadium and a football stadium at Patrick Henry and William Fleming High Schools.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely,

S/C. Nelson Harris

C. Nelson Harris
Mayor"

The Mayor advised that the special meeting was called for the purpose of discussing an issue, not to discuss people, and if the discourse in any way becomes uncivil, he would adjourn the meeting.

The Mayor referred to a communication from the Chair of the School Board under date of October 27, 2005, transmitting a report submitted by the Superintendent's Athletic Committee; whereupon, he called upon the School Board Chair for remarks.

Council Member Dowe entered the meeting.

Chair Stockburger advised that it is the intent and the responsibility of the School Board to provide safe, high performing schools for Roanoke's children during a time of significant and time critical challenges, therefore, to the extent that athletic programs help the school system to achieve its goals, the conversation that is about to take place is important. However, she stated that it is hoped that future conversations will center on instruction, learning and building high quality schools.

The Chair reviewed the contents of the interim report submitted by the Superintendent's Athletic Committee that was appointed in April 2005, and was charged with the responsibility of evaluating City Schools athletic needs.

She added that the committee will not complete its assignment until the end of the calendar year; however, the interim report stated that it would be in the best interests of Roanoke City students to locate a stadium at each high school. Historically, she explained that the rationale has been for a shared stadium, due to cost effectiveness and the fact that fewer students were involved in athletics than they are today; and while the rationale supports and the School Board prefers school based stadiums, it understands that costs are a consideration as well as the impact on neighborhoods. She added that the issue is ultimately a decision that will be made by the Council; therefore, the position of the School Board is in support of school stadiums, however, the School Board would support ultimately the decision of Council. She stated that this is not an eleventh hour maneuver by the School Board; the School Board did not encourage or request any of the petitions or advocacy groups to come forward, but the above stated position was taken after reviewing the report of the Athletic Committee.

A summary of the report of the Superintendent's Athletic Committee is as follows:

"Charge:

The Superintendent's Athletic Committee was unanimously agreed to by the School Board at its April 2005 meeting. This committee was established to discern District athletic needs. These needs include, but are not limited to:

- Determining short-term facility, management, safety, maintenance, and cost needs for a high school football facility for the next three to four years.
- Being ready to respond to the upcoming Roanoke City Council decision regarding a stadium, confirming and lobbying for the needs of our student athletes and school system as a whole as it pertains to this decision.
- Evaluate and make recommendations for athletic programming at the middle and high school level, including hiring practices, stipends, transportation needs, relationship with the City Parks and Recreation department, intramurals, etc.
- Planning long-range and short-term capital plans for football as well as all athletic programs and facilities in the school system.

History:

- The committee convened in September.
- The committee has met for two-hour sessions on three occasions.
- The committee is made up of board members, parents, coaches, teachers, athletic directors.
- The committee hopes to present its report to the school board at the December school board meeting.

Discussions and Decisions to Date:

- Preparations are underway to determine a location for high school football within the City and on the grounds of RCPS. Final cost analyses are due soon. It is anticipated that a subcommittee will be formed to work with the school system, the Parks and Recreation Department, and neighborhoods in order to be fully ready for football in August 2006.
- Much time has been spent discussing the difficulties in fielding equitable teams in all ten sports at the middle school level. Concerns regarding costs, travel, and skill development have been discussed. "Out-of-the-box" alternatives are being considered. It is hoped that a way to provide competitive sports in a cost effective manner can be found. This is felt to be vital to school spirit, student health and developing feeder programs for the high schools. There is still much work to do in this area. We will probably have a public forum on this and other issues before the committee finishes its work.
- Much time has also been spent on the longer term stadium decision. We have carefully reviewed the history, including many documents, regarding the Victory Stadium decision as it pertains to the school system. The committee has understood the decision of previous school boards and school administrations to support a shared stadium. It is felt, based on documentation, that if cost, space, and ongoing maintenance were not issues, the school system would have supported two high school stadiums throughout the debate. "Plan B" for a shared stadium was "satisfactory" due to perceived cost savings in a shared facility. However, this committee feels that with the

time that has elapsed in this debate, the changes in school board and administration, the now available space on the high school campuses and the possibility that it may very well be more cost effective to have a stadium at each high school. "Plan A" should be more fully promoted by the School Board. This, again, has been the school system's "Plan A" all along, and if indeed it is more cost effective, then this is the right path to take. We feel it is okay for the School Board to adopt this decision based on all the new information that has become available. Again, if there are not cost savings in a shared facility (which we do not know at this time), then the School Board should strongly support what appears to be what it has wanted all along: two high school stadiums. It is the unanimous consensus of the committee that each high school has a stadium on campus. The reasons given by committee members include:

'Home games' should actually be 'at home.' On-site stadiums would promote student involvement if for no other reason than to eliminate the need for transportation. It is time to give these children their own memories as opposed to trying to relive a bygone year. The booster clubs could actually earn money.

'Better school control of facility - Improved pep and morale - Multiple uses: soccer, band, convocations, pep rallies, etc. - Opportunity for booster clubs - Improvement opportunities for city wide events with better complexes and facilities - Less cost associated with travel, security, etc.'

'We would use the field for more than just football. We not only struggle with scheduling home games on Friday night but we are without a place to play soccer, lacrosse, sub varsity football, as well as sub varsity soccer, lacrosse, and a place for the band to practice on a regulation field. We are at a huge disadvantage for students to have opportunities to use a school field and we lose money, spirit and community support not having our own field.'

'1. Build school spirit and pride. 2. Eliminate transportation costs for home games. 3. Booster clubs, school clubs, and other teams could earn money from concessions. 4. Home fan attendance would increase due to decreased travel.'

'1. The students develop a better school identity by playing on their own campuses. 2. Transportation costs can be reduced. 3. Students take ownership and develop pride. 4. Schools can make a schedule without constantly having to coordinate with another school or another government agency.'

'Constructing two stadiums to be used for high school athletics (football, soccer, lacrosse, etc.) will cost less than a shared City stadium and they will certainly improve student morale, foster school and community pride and spirit. They will allow schools and booster organizations the opportunity to collect revenues that a shared stadium will not allow and will reduce the costs that the high school must now incur in terms of facility rent and transportation costs. Stadiums at the high schools are what our students deserve.'

- Work on short-term and long-range capital plans for the athletic needs of our school system have just begun by this committee. Obviously these will be related to the outcome of the pending City Council decision, and the recommendations as related to programming and this work will, therefore, be the last task of this committee."

The Mayor opened the floor for discussion.

The Superintendent reviewed the following High School Statistics 2000-2001 through 2004-2005:

Roanoke City Public Schools
High School Statistics 2000-2001 through 2004-2005

Dropouts

School	Year				
Grade Level	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
Patrick Henry High					
Grade 9	39	15	20	24	20
Grade 10	38	22	21	13	17
Grade 11	21	9	14	11	30
Grade 12	21	9	9	8	13
Total Dropouts	119	55	64	56	80
Dropout Rate	6.97%	3.22%	3.54%	3.08%	4.49%
William Fleming High					
Grade 9	50	56	42	24	29
Grade 10	36	39	19	21	17
Grade 11	34	18	15	18	23
Grade 12	18	13	13	11	12
Total Dropouts	138	126	89	74	81
Dropout Rate	10.24%	9.28%	6.29%	5.31%	5.56%
Noel C. Taylor Academy					
Grade 9	14	26	20	17	24
Grade 10	9	5	10	6	5
Grade 11	5	8	5	4	4
Grade 12	2	2	3	2	3
Total Dropouts	30	41	38	29	36
Dropout Rate	21.67%	27.78%	33.57%	26.72%	22.05%
Blue Ridge Technical					
Grade 9	0	0	3	7	4
Grade 10	0	4	7	4	2
Grade 11	0	0	0	2	1
Grade 12	0	0	0	2	1
Total Dropouts	0	4	10	15	8
Dropout Rate	0%	33.33%	29.41%	17.24%	8.51%
Combined Middle School					
Grade 7	12	2	4	5	14
Grade 8	16	17	12	8	9
Total middle school dropouts	28	19	16	13	23
Total RCPS Dropouts	315	245	217	187	228
Dropout Rate	6.08%	4.67%	3.99%	3.40%	4.07%

The Superintendent reviewed the following fact sheet with regard to proposed high school athletic facilities:



ROANOKE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Bernard J. Godek

Office of Associate Superintendent for Management

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Roanoke City Public Schools Proposed High School Athletic Facilities Fact Sheet

Goal: It is the goal of Roanoke City Public Schools to bring high school athletics back to the high schools.

Description

- 3,000 seating capacity athletic facilities, located at Patrick Henry and William Fleming High Schools.
- State of the art lighting system, which limits illumination of areas outside of the athletic facility.
- The latest in multiuse artificial turf technology, known as Field-Turf ®.
- 700+ parking spaces available, with overflow parking at Shriner Field.
- The athletic facilities will be complete with the following features:
Home grandstand seating (lower level – concrete, upper level – steel),
Visitor grandstand seating (concrete), Home and visitor concessions,
Restroom buildings, Press box, Landscaping, Scoreboard, Sidewalks &
concourse, Site fencing & gates, Ticket building, Complete track renovations
– including an all weather eight lane rubberized metric track.

Benefits

- Increase pride in school culture.
- Schools will receive the benefit for all revenue generated through ticket or concession sales.
- Eliminates the fees associated with per game or scrimmage facility use as charged through rentals fees required by the City of Roanoke.
- Removes flooding concerns and postponements due to inclement weather.
- Allows students to experience traditional homecoming events at their home school.
- Prevents the need for students to drive from game events back to their school sites for post game activities.

Good Neighbor Initiatives

- Roanoke City Public Schools, in conjunction with the Roanoke City Police Department, will devise a traffic, parking, and pedestrian control plan.
- School division updates and community feedback will be conducted on a quarterly basis.
- There will be limited nighttime use and daytime usage will be maximized.
- The school system will work with principals at the respective high schools to develop a litter control service-learning project, managed by student groups such as the Student Government Association.
- Fencing will prevent access to the athletic facility from any point other than the main entrance.
- Provisions will be made for the use of the facility by the school PTAs and other neighborhood organizations, as allowed by local laws and school board policy.
- Provisions will be made for access to additional concessions by the school PTAs and other neighborhood organizations, as allowed by local laws and school board policy.

Discovering the Wealth in Every Student

The Superintendent reviewed the following conceptual estimates for high school stadia under date of October 27, 2005:

Roanoke City HS Stadium
Conceptual Estimate
October 27, 2005

<i>Item Description</i>	<i>Amounts</i>
Erosion Control and Earthwork	\$ 175,000
Seeding	\$ 20,000
Paved Service Drive	\$ 23,420
Drainable Pavers	\$ 8,100
Sidewalks and Concourses	\$ 87,012
Site Fencing and Gates	\$ 31,200
Ticket Building	\$ 26,000
Storm Drainage System	\$ 49,600
Domestic Water	\$ 23,600
Water Connection Fee	\$ 6,881
Sanitary Sewer	\$ 37,200
Sitework	\$ 486,913
Lower Level Concrete	\$ 525,441
Upper Level Steel/Aluminum	\$ 192,000
Home Grandstand Seating	\$ 717,441
Visitor Grandstand	\$ 363,368
Home Concession/Mens Toilet Building	\$ 145,000
Home Womens Toilet Building	\$ 130,000
Visitors Concessions/Toilets/Pressbox Building	\$ 250,000
Stone Base and Underdrain System	\$ 227,550
FieldTurf Surface	\$ 360,288
Perimeter Concrete Curb	\$ 11,600
Seeding	\$ 6,000
Landscaping	\$ 26,000
Storm Drainage System	\$ 16,600
Scoreboard	\$ 10,000
Public Address System	\$ 25,000
Playing Field	\$ 681,138
Lighting System	\$ 175,000
Existing Track Renovations	\$ 185,296
Subtotal	\$ 3,113,142
General Requirements	\$ 233,486
Testing Allowance	\$ 5,000
Contractors Fee	\$ 167,681
Architectural and Engineering Fees	\$ 228,749
Subtotal	\$ 3,747,958
Design Development Contingency	\$ 374,796
Total	\$ 4,122,753

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick advised that since his children are no longer enrolled in the City's School system, he is not attuned to what today's young people need as the school system tries to intergrate both academics and athletics to provide an overall holistic education; his purpose in asking for the joint meeting of Council and the School Board was not for the purpose of requiring the School Board to take a position but to ask the School Board and the School Superintendent to share their thoughts on what is best for Roanoke's young people. Therefore, he asked the School Board and School Superintendent to help the Council to understand the relationship between academics and athletics.

Superintendent Thompson advised that Roanoke currently has two high schools that are undergoing change with regard to not only their physical location, but their physical design; Roanoke has had two campus-style schools for many years; in a matter of a few short months, Patrick Henry High School students will be moved into a singular facility, which, in itself, changes the culture of the school community; and in approximately three years, students at William Fleming High School will do likewise. In terms of cultural changes, he explained that for years, students have passed each other in pods, but when students are brought together in one unit, different types of communication takes place which presents certain implications for the school to begin to grow into a total school community.

He stated that there are certain numerical values to examining the need to provide on site stadiums and reviewed information with regard to Roanoke City's graduation and drop-out rate which demonstrates the pattern for the past five years. He added that the City's graduation rate has not been above 60 per cent during the last five years; as the school system strives to improve the graduation rate, numbers will be added to every class each year, and as the school system moves to progress and change, numbers at each grade level could increase by about 200 students on average for each year; therefore, 600 extra students every year in each school in a school system that is already at capacity at both high schools brings to mind questions with regard to the future impact of a third high school in six to seven years. He stated that he expects the school system to become better at closing the gap in the graduation rate, and Roanoke's schools will be well over capacity in six years or more.

He advised that when talking about building stronger school communities, at some point in time William Fleming and Patrick Henry High Schools may not be the only entities in the City of Roanoke in terms of providing educational and other opportunities for high school students.

Council Member Cutler asked the Superintendent to be more specific with regard to the role of athletics, particularly football stadiums on school campuses, insofar as contributing to the graduation statistics.

The Superintendent advised that currently in the athletic community, a lot of time is being spent on feeder patterns and developing stronger athletic programs overall and an increase in student participation. He stated that in his experience as a high school administrator, it is quite telling when strong athletic programs are not in place which leads to idle students; students look to the school for a sense of belonging, for activities and opportunities; many students have to travel away from the school to participate in and to practice sports activities, therefore, there is no true connection to the school which is the missing piece. He called attention to certain inherent intangibles that can translate into negative discipline numbers, the number of students who drop-out of school who are not inspired or motivated, and athletics is the first phase of enhancing opportunities for the largest number of students in any high school and creates the greatest number of opportunities for all students to participate by the number of sports activities that are offered. For example, he added that the Science Club is simply the Science Club for those students who are interested in science, but athletics has many bounds and offers students an opportunity to expose their skills based on their personal preference.

With regard to the relevance of athletic fields versus the drop-out rate, the Superintendent advised that Roanoke City is losing students as early as the seventh grade; as we look at what the schools and school programs are doing for children, it is important to look at feeder patterns to involve young people as early as possible in order to formulate strong athletic programs; walking out of a student's own school down to his or her locker room and onto the school's athletic field instills a source of pride, decreases travel time for young people who drive to practice, and removes a transportation barrier for some students who do not have the means to travel to other locations.

He stated that athletic fields have a great impact on not only students but parents who use the facilities after hours for walking or jogging which enables the school to become a part of the entire community, rather than simply a building where students attend school.

Council Member Wishneff requested clarification on the Superintendent's statement that providing an athletic field for practice and sports activities will help to decrease the school drop-out rate; whereupon, Mr. Thompson advised that it is a variable that provides an opportunity for students to participate and to become a part of the school community.

Council Member Wishneff requested data to confirm that the student drop out rate will decrease if practice fields are located on the school campus; whereupon, Mr. Thompson advised that he would provide research articles that speak specifically to the effects of interscholastic sports participation on academic achievement at the middle and high school levels.

Chair Stockburger called attention to a school district in the State of Pennsylvania that recently constructed a stadium, and research reveals that extra curricular activities increased the school systems graduation rate.

The Superintendent advised that a 3,000 seat capacity athletic facility located at each of the high school sites has been discussed.

Council Member Cutler inquired if there is sufficient land for an athletic field at Patrick Henry High School; whereupon, the Superintendent advised that according to the architect, the sitting is located to the rear of the building, below level in a kind of bowl configuration, and he has been assured that the area will accommodate a 3,000 seat athletic field.

When questioned if the bowl configuration would help to alleviate light and noise issues, the Superintendent advised that he would confer with the architect and advise Council accordingly.

Council Member McDaniel inquired as to the number of night games that would be held on each athletic field; whereupon, the Superintendent advised that football is the primary night event and each high school plays five home games, and other events could include soccer which is played during early evening in the spring.

On the cost handout, Council Member Dowe requested a clarification of the term domestic water and testing allowance.

Upon question, Dr. Trinkle advised that subsurface evaluations were performed and utilities were purposely moved out of the area at Patrick Henry High School.

Question was raised as to whether the School Board/School Administration had entertained the idea of limiting lights to football play only so that the neighborhood would not be subjected to a 24/7 kind of use.

The Chair responded that the fears articulated by the Raleigh Court community relate to "what if" types of questions such as traffic control, or whether the field is used 15 or 20 lighted nights a year. She stated that if stadiums are constructed at the two high schools, residents of the areas should provide input.

Council member Wishneff advised that 16 per cent of the City's population is 65 years of age or older, the City has a limited amount of tax dollars, Roanoke's taxpayers have been generous by allowing the City to construct/renovate \$100 million in high schools improvements; therefore, he inquired if the School Board had \$10 million dollars to spend and the question was raised as to the best way to improve the high school drop-out rate, would the answer be to construct stadia at the two high schools.

Superintendent Thompson responded that the School Board was invited to the meeting because the City of Roanoke has \$15 million to spend on stadiums that impact schools.

Council Member Dowe inquired about traffic as it relates to present school activities versus the addition of a sporting venue; whereupon, the Superintendent advised that any school when addressing new goals, new challenges and certain changes could, by its design, create a new traffic pattern or increase the volume of people.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick expressed appreciation to the School Board and to the Superintendent for meeting with Council and advised that the sharing of information will help Council to make the best decision on behalf of Roanoke's children.

Council Member McDaniel advised that concerns have been expressed not only in the Raleigh Court neighborhood, but in the Grandin Court neighborhood concerning the stadium at Patrick Henry High School. She inquired if the stadium at Patrick Henry will include a track; whereupon, the Superintendent advised that the track will be located at the William Fleming site.

She inquired if students drive from game events back to the school sites for post game activities; whereupon, the Superintendent responded in the affirmative and advised of the risk of various negatives that could happen.

Council Member Cutler advised that he was not comfortable in spending taxpayers' money on Victory Stadium which is located in a floodway; and after spending 50 years studying natural resources management and water management, he can attest to the fact that floods on the Roanoke River will continue and worsen as suburbs in Blacksburg develop on the headwaters of the Roanoke River, and as more development takes place in Roanoke County, flood water will flow down the Roanoke River.

He advised that when touring the new Patrick Henry High School, it appeared that the design created the sense of smaller schools by dividing the school. He inquired if a stadium has the potential of bringing groups of students together around one athletic program in order to generate a sense of one school.

Superintendent Thompson advised that the design of Patrick Henry offers great opportunities for internal small learning communities; a variable of the school drop-out rate involves curriculum and when the curriculum is changed, students will be engaged in a different way; and stadia at the two high schools will provide an opportunity that Roanoke's students have not previously had.

Mayor Harris inquired if the Superintendent was comfortable in advising the Council that two stadia could be constructed for a combined cost of \$8.2 million; whereupon, the Superintendent advised that he was quite confident with the \$8.2 million figure. He stated that inflation is always a variable, if stadia for the two high schools are approved by Council, it would be two years before the stadium at Patrick Henry High School is completed; and it would take three to four years before construction on the William Fleming stadium could begin therefore, a natural five per cent inflation rate was built into the \$8.2 million figure.

Mayor Harris inquired about the opinion of the athletic community; i.e.: athletic directors, coaches, parents, teachers etc., concerning school athletic fields; whereupon, the Superintendent advised that they support stadia at the two high schools.

Other than football, Mayor Harris inquired if there would be a need to hold other athletic events at a shared stadium; whereupon, the Superintendent advised that compacted school stadiums with more green space would allow other events to occur on site.

Mayor Harris inquired if stadia were constructed on the two high school campuses as a part of the school complex, would the School Board operate, manage and maintain the facilities; whereupon, the Superintendent responded in the affirmative and advised that it was one of the reasons the school system chose to look at astroturf which is low maintenance and creates greater opportunities for more frequent play.

Mayor Harris asked the Superintendent to discuss how concessions would be addressed at a high school-based stadium versus a shared stadium; whereupon, the Superintendent referred to a concept where revenue generated at school activities would go back to the school's athletic programs; some programs could become self sufficient; and operating concessions would provide an opportunity for students that participate in clubs and organizations to increase their activities.

Assuming that stadia for both high schools are approved, Mayor Harris inquired about the timeline for completion; whereupon, the Superintendent advised that the Patrick Henry stadium would be completed in the fall of 2007, followed by the William Fleming stadium in the fall of 2010.

Mayor Harris made the observation that the William Fleming stadium would include a track and field within the stadium footprint; however, the footprint for the Patrick Henry stadium would include improving the existing track on the other side of Shrine Hill. Dr. Trinkle advised that some of the track and field events will be moved to the outside of the track. It was noted that a price of \$160,000.00 was quoted to rotorize and remove everything from the outside, however, it was not clear if the \$160,000.00 was included in the \$4.1 million figure for a stadium.

The Mayor advised and the Superintendent confirmed that the stadium would be constructed in the general vicinity of McQuilkin Hall located on the Patrick Henry campus. He inquired if participation by students in high school athletics has increased or decreased; whereupon, the Superintendent advised that participation has declined.

Dr. Trinkle advised that participation, city-wide, in Parks and Recreation programs, as well as middle school participation has declined and no one understands why; the school system enjoys a good relationship with the City's Parks and Recreation Department and a part of the solution will involve a better relationship between the Parks and Recreation Department and the schools to develop a new and more competitive programs at the middle school level in order to feed the high school level.

When going off site for an athletic event, Mayor Harris inquired if a cost analysis was prepared comparing on campus versus off campus activities; whereupon, the Superintendent advised that figures have not been quantified to this point.

The Mayor inquired if there is any liability exposure to going off campus for an athletic event; whereupon, the Superintendent advised that there are always liability issues when students travel to and from school activities.

Mayor Harris requested more information on the thrust of Roanoke's school system to enhance the school athletic program on a number of levels.

Dr. Trinkle advised that to date there has been no mention of athletics within the school system, no studies have been completed on how athletics affect academics or school morale, and there are no short term or long term budgetary plans in the school budget involving athletics. He stated that the goal of the Athletic Committee is to determine and to prioritize needs leading to short term and long term capital, as well as programming needs that involve athletics. He explained that various options are under consideration such as eliminating certain programs, enhancing other programs, working with the City's Department of Parks and Recreation, and cutting back on transportation expenses, etc., all of which will be presented to the School Board for consideration.

Should the Council approve stadia at the two high schools, Mayor Harris inquired about the strategy of the School Board to engage the Raleigh Court/Grandin Court neighborhood in discussions; whereupon, the Superintendent advised of the importance of receiving input from the neighborhoods by listening to concerns and establishing an oversight committee that would participate in implementation.

In the event of a sell out at the 3,000 seat stadium at Patrick Henry, Mayor Harris inquired about parking capacity; whereupon, the Superintendent advised that approximately 1500 persons attend a average football game so there will be sufficient parking.

Council Member Cutler advised that the School Board has other priorities to consider, particularly instruction and academics; City Council also has other priorities such as a new library, a recreation center, etc., therefore, if stadia can be constructed for less than \$15 million, any excess funds could be used to address other City/School priorities.

The Mayor expressed appreciation to the School Board for meeting with the Council and advised that Victory Stadium options will be discussed by the Council on Monday, November 7, 2005, at 2:00 p.m.

The Mayor advised that Council is scheduled to meet on Monday, November 7, 2005, at 9:00 a.m., for the Council's monthly work session; however, a quorum of the Council was not expected to be present until 10:00 a.m.

Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Council that Council Member Cutler would open the meeting on Monday, November 7 at 9:00 a.m., declare that a quorum was not present and recess the meeting until 10:00 a.m., in Room 159, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, Virginia.

There being no further business, at 5:40 p.m., the Mayor and the School Board Chair declared their respective meetings adjourned.

A P P R O V E D

ATTEST:

Mary F. Parker
City Clerk

C. Nelson Harris
Mayor
